



## Starry Stonewort

*New invasive to be on the lookout for in Sand Lake*

Starry stonewort, an invasive species of macro algae, has been confirmed in Lake Winnibigoshish

With starry stonewort infesting parts of the west side of Winnie...it is a real danger that it could spread to Sand and Bowstring Lakes! Especially considering the close proximity and how often boaters from Winnie visit both Sand and Bowstring. It seems these two lakes are often the first choice when the fish aren't biting or it is very windy. The additional coverage at the boat launch will be helpful, but we must become familiar with what this plant looks like and get it reported immediately if seen.

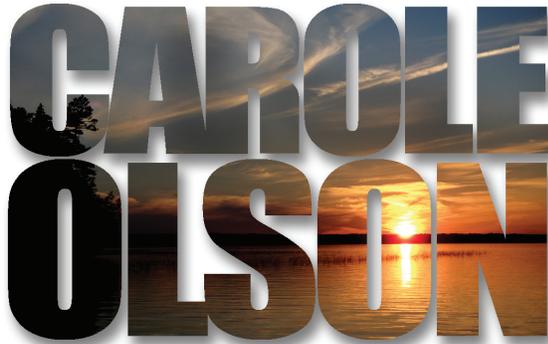
Phil Thompson continue to be our AIS contact with the county and the DNR and as he indicates to both, we all appreciate what you are doing to control AIS, however, with zebra mussels in Sand Lake keeping another invasive out of the lake is imperative! Please let us know what steps we can take to assist. One of these actions would be to take a class to: Become an Aquatic Invasive Species Detector!

Thank you to our own Phil Thompson who is in the process of becoming an AIS detector, you too could become one and help identify these plants so we can stop the spread, joining a network of citizen scientists and learn how to identify and report AIS.

We all need to pitch in to make a difference for our lake and community.



# Sand Lake Off And Running For 2017



Another beautiful day from Sand Lake, leaves are budding and the birds are flocking back. It seems like yesterday that the sun was shining brightly and all that white stuff was melting away leaving behind a blanket of bright green grass. There is a loon in the background singing his song how blessed I am.

The ditch cop crews were out in force Friday April 21st picking up trash along hwy's 4 and 35, we had an awesome day to get our chores done. Thanks to everyone for helping with our outdoor spring cleaning.

I'd like to THANK all of you who have helped and volunteered over the years with various duties to better our lake and area. Especially those who joined forces at the boat launch, this group we called weed cops. The county has again offered to do a matching grant for coverage at the boat launch so between County time and DNR time we may not have to do this work ourselves. You started something that continues being a very important asset for our lake. Anytime we can prevent the spread of invasive species it's a blessing.



From left to right: Vic Warnement, Chuck Baker, Gary Weaver, Myron Hahn, Stafford King, Pat Sievertson, Carole Olson.

In the Sandpaper we have an article regarding the Northern limits and one regarding Walleye data. We are scheduled to have 1.9 million fry released in the lake this year. Rich Rezanka from the DNR, has been involved in a three lake study regarding zebra mussels, in Minnesota, which includes Sand Lake this is the third season of data collection. We look forward to the results of this study and pray for a way to control the zebra mussels and keep other invasive species out of our lake. Please keep an eye on the web page for updated articles and news.

Our annual Fish Fry is planned for Saturday 6-17-2017 at the Community Center, we plan to eat about 5pm. DNR representatives will be invited to join us for dinner and be available to answer questions if there are any. We again invite you to donate fish for this event. If you have questions please contact Chuck Baker or Myron Hahn or any other board member. This will be a pot luck event so bring your favorite dish to pass, SLPOA will provide fried fish and beverages.

Mark your calendar for 8-19-17 for our Annual Meeting, lunch will be provided by SLPOA and served at 12pm.

We are planning to have lunch with our fall ditch cop clean-up like we did last year, more information will be coming regarding this opportunity to volunteer and spend time in community and fellowship.

Have a safe and wonderful summer, hope to see you all at the fish-fry.

In your service

*Carole Olson*

SLPOA President



## Boat launch coverage

Again this boating season County AIS and DNR inspectors will be inspecting and educating boaters at the Sand Lake Public Access. Coverage will be mostly weekends, however, you may find them at the access any day of

the week. Often the decontamination unit (high pressure sprayer) will accompany them...it is used to clean both incoming and outgoing boats. With the approval of a 250 hours matching grant by the county we will have additional hours of coverage. Between the County AIS and DNR the total hours of coverage should be close to 1000 hours.

Sand Lake Fishery Update

Spring 2017

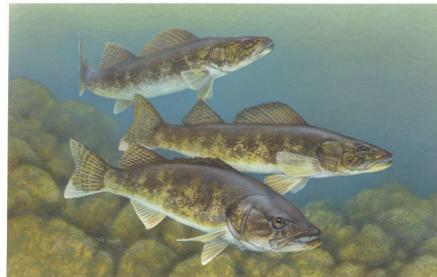
## Understanding Sand Lake

The Fisheries Lake Management Plan for Sand Lake was revised in 2012 with input from the SLPOA. Management actions focused on data collection related to Walleye natural reproduction and a better understanding of Walleye population dynamics in the lake. This plan included several components that increased our understanding of Walleye in Sand Lake.

The first part of the study was to determine the amount of spawning-age female Walleye in the lake, and to determine the size and age at which these fish begin to spawn. Data was collected from fall gill net assessments in 2013, 2014, and 2015. These assessments consisted of 15 gill nets set in mid-Sept at standard net locations. These were the same locations used for summer sampling, and were set in water less than 22 feet deep. Results from fall assessments showed that on average, Sand Lake supported about half a pound of spawning-age females per acre. This was low compared to other lakes with similar

studies, and suggest that a lack of spawning-age females could limit natural reproduction. Studies from other lakes suggest that 1.5 to 2 pounds per acre is sufficient for good natural reproduction.

Length and age at first spawning is another good indicator to the health of the fishery. Fish often spawn at a younger age and smaller size in lakes where too many fish are removed by anglers or other predators. The results from Sand Lake suggest a stressed fishery, as Walleye reached maturity at around 15 inches and 3 years of age, compared to 17 inches and 4 years of age from other populations. The age at maturity appears to be



reflected in growth rates from Sand Lake. Growth was near the statewide average for ages 1-3, but slowed thereafter. Growth rates slow following maturity as energy is diverted from growth into egg and sperm production. The 17-26 inch protected slot limit that was implemented in 2017 is expected to reduce harvest pressure on female Walleyes and may benefit the population by increasing the number of female spawners and contributing to a healthier fishery.

The second part of the study involved stocking 1.9 million fry in 2014 and again in 2015 in an effort to estimate the number of naturally produced fry in Sand Lake. These fry were marked with a chemical that would allow biologists to identify them at a later date from marks on their ear bones. Estimates were made using a method that involves looking at the proportional catch of marked (stocked) and unmarked (natural) fish. In 2014, 207 young-of-the-year (YOY) were captured by seining and electrofishing. Of the 207 Walleye, 120 were marked. This resulted in an estimate of 400-1050 natural fry per littoral acre (littoral acres refers to that area of the lake that is less than 15

feet deep). Estimates were also made by using the amount of female spawners from the fall gill net assessment from Sand Lake, as well as the egg production rate for Walleye, and known hatch rates from Red Lake. This resulted in an expected wild fry production of about 80 to 240 wild fry per littoral acre. DNR stocking guidelines generally recommend stocking 500-1000 fry per littoral acre.

The two methods produced very different results! As it turns out, subsequent evaluation of YOY Walleye from Bowstring showed that some marked fry migrated to Bowstring. This was an unexpected surprise due to the upstream nature of the movement. Since fry moved upstream, it is logical to think that natural fry from Bowstring moved downstream, into Sand. The mark-recapture estimate requires the fish to stay put, and since they migrated to and from the lake, there is no way to calculate how many natural fry were produced in Sand. It is very likely that migration of YOY Walleye through the system is an important component for Walleye recruitment, and that overall natural reproduction in the system may be more important than in Sand Lake, itself. Unfortunately, too few YOY walleye were captured in 2015 to repeat the study. It is unknown if this represents a poor year class or sampling difficulties associated with water clarity that year.

The next assessment on Sand will be conducted in the summer of 2017. This assessment will look at gill net catch rates from individual year classes to help determine the importance of stocking. An analysis of summer assessments from 1975-2011 indicates that natural year classes frequently contribute to the Sand Lake fishery, but fry stocked year classes have bolstered Walleye numbers. The lake management plan will be revised following the 2017 assessment and the stocking strategy will be revisited.

*David Weitzel*  
 Dave Weitzel,  
 DNR Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor

Compliments of Sand Lake Property Owners Assoc.  
 See the full Minnesota fishing regulations for complete info.

**SAND LAKE**  
 Keepers... How Many & What Size

**Walleye...** total in possession

0"..... 17"	17"..... 26"	Over 26"
<b>Limit... 6</b>	<b>ZERO</b>	<b>ONE</b>

**Northern Pike...** total in possession

0"..... 22"	22"..... 36"	Over 36"
<b>Limit... 9</b>	<b>ZERO</b>	<b>ONE</b>

**Perch...** 20 Per Day  
 40...total in possession

**Sunfish...**  
 20...total in possession

**Crappies...**  
 10...total in possession

**Bass...**  
 6...total in possession  
 (Combined Large & Small Mouth)

**Turn In Poachers 800-652-9093**

# New 2017 MN Northern Pike Regulations-BUT NOT ON SAND LAKE

DNR NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE... Dec. 8, 2016

Media contacts: David Weitzel, DNR Grand Rapids area fisheries supervisor, 218-328-8835, david.weitzel@state.mn.us; Cheri Zeppelin, northeast region information officer, 218-328-8954 cheri.zeppelin@state.mn.us.

Experimental northern pike regulations repealed on Bowstring Lake and Round lake.

After reviewing public comments, the experimental northern pike regulations currently in place for Bowstring and Round (including connected Alice) lakes in Itasca County were repealed March 1, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The experimental regulation currently in place for Sand Lake will remain in effect for now.

Since 2007, these lakes have been managed with an experimental regulation that allows a possession limit of nine northern pike and requires all pike from 22 to 36 inches long to be immediately released. The intent of the special regulation was to encourage harvest of an overabundance of small northern pike and develop a quality fishery of larger northern pike.

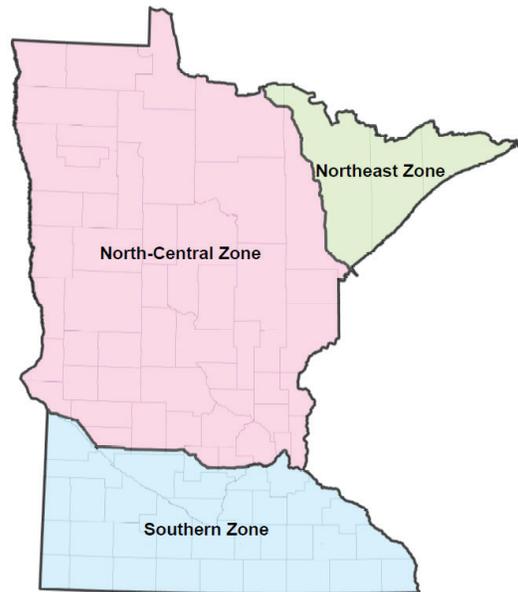
“A statewide regulation change has been proposed for northern pike and this new approach is expected to produce good results on Bowstring and Round. The zone proposal for northern pike management has continued to progress, but currently needs legislative action to be finalized and will not be in place for the 2017 fishing opener,” said David Weitzel, Grand Rapids area fisheries supervisor. “This means that the limit on Bowstring and Round lakes will revert back to the current statewide 3 fish bag limit with on over 30 allowed in possession for the 2017 fishing season”.

The status of the Sand Lake pike fishery was not as clear, and the current experimental regulation will be extended by one year so additional

biological data can be collected. “The last summer assessment was conducted in 2011, when the regulation was only a few years old,” Weitzel said. “At that time, the regulation was too new to expect a significant change in the pike size structure. Sand Lake is scheduled for an assessment in 2017 and this assessment will provide much better information on pike size potential. By extending the regulation, we will have a better understanding of the current pike status in the lake, and know more about when the zone approach might be put in place.”

The DNR will review the regulation again in 2017, with an additional comment period and public meeting next fall.

More information is available by contacting the Grand Rapids Area Fisheries office at 218-328-8836 and on DNR website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/grandrapids/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/grandrapids/index.html).



## Spring Lake Store 100+ Years

Please visit our upgraded Deli with daily soups, sandwiches, and salads. We still have the wonderful cheeses and deli meats from Frabonis too!

The seating by the Deli that is surrounded by seasonal items and local artists work for sale.

We just completed remodeling our Fireside Community Room which is available to enjoy your goodies from the deli, visit with others or just have a quiet place to read, download a book, and/or check your social media with our free internet service. It will also be available to be reserved for small parties by contacting Sue Watlov Phillips at 612-845-9287 or [suewatlovp@aol.com](mailto:suewatlovp@aol.com).

We have had several events at the store including our 100 Year Celebration, Harvest Festival, Two Holiday events, Valentine's Party and Easter Egg Hunt.

We have enjoyed Local Musicians joining us for several of these events.

We are excited about many folks visiting us during the garage sale on May 5th and 6th. We will have BBQ and live music over the Noon hour each day!

Our Spring Lake Store is a great gathering place to visit with others. We will be arranging live music a couple times/month, spoken word/storytelling, Jesse Lake Lutheran will begin a Bible Study on Sundays and we will have special events throughout the year!



From top: The 1916 A.F. Heide store in 1916, the Spring Lake Store & Tavern in 1953 & far right... still a happening place today!

**Treasurer's Report**

**July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016**

**Cash on Hand July 1, 2015 \$48,760.43**

**Income**

Dues Received	2,520.00
Undesignated Donations	7,652.00
Stocking Donations*	1,540.00
Interest	78.18
Grant - IBM, Microsoft, Direct TV and Itasca Co.	11,713.01

**Total Income \$23,503.19**

**Expense**

Comm. Printing & Office Supplies	1,369.02
Postage	287.96
Insurance	274.00
Meeting Expenses	844.21
Gifts Given	1,025.45
Promotional Items	570.90
Bank Fees	25.00
P.O. Box Rental	110.00
Itasca Co. (AIS Hrs.)	1,500.00
Misc.	357.00

**Total Expenses \$6,363.54**

**Transfers**

From checking to savings \$10,000.00

**Cash on Hand June 2016**

**Checking: \$15,829.67**

**Savings: \$50,070.41**

**Total Cash and Investments \$65,900.08**

\*SLPOA stocking donations balance \$8,793.16  
Respectfully Submitted: Gary Weaver, Treasurer

**Sand Lake Property Owners Association**

Board of Directors, Officers & Volunteers 2017/18

**President: Carole Olson**, Phone: 218- 659-4757  
Email: cncolson7@yahoo.com

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Email: gkweaver@paulbunyan.net

**Treasurer: Chuck Baker**, Phone: 218-659-2955  
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**Secretary: Pat Sievertson**, Phone: 218-659-2157  
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**Directors:**

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**Stafford King**, Phone: 218-659-2146  
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**Immediate Past President: Victor Warnement**

Phone: 218-659-4788  
Email: vicwarnement@yahoo.com

**Volunteers: John Perkins: Sand Paper Editor & Web:**

Phone: 218-659-4754 or 828-698-5897  
Email: jfpc2@paulbunyan.net



**Join our very own Sand Lake Social Network. Nextdoor...** It's the place where we share what's happening around the lake... summer & winter. **Go to the website and start posting!**

**www.nextdoor.com**



**www.slpoa1.com**

Don't forget... Sand Lake also has the Northern Pike slot.

**KEEP 9**  
NORTHERN PIKE SLOT LIMIT

These experimental/special regulations apply to Sand Lake and connecting waters, Bowstring, Little Sand etc.

Limit: 1 over 36"  
Limit: 9 under 22"

**Don't Forget To Check The slpoa1 Website**

Your SLPOA website continues to be an asset to our community. We hope you'll visit the new site often. As always we look forward to your feedback.

...John Perkins



**Member Email Address... PLEASE**

We're doing better but we haven't got everyone's email address yet. Please include it on the Membership Application or send it to me direct. My email address is jfpc2@paulbunyan.net. Thanks for your help... John Perkins



**For Better Address**

If you want your mail delivered to the lake... write that address. If you have a different address... write that one in.

Thanks...Vic Warnement

**Remember this is your 2017 membership. Not 2016 or 2018**

TEAR OFF ON DOTTED LINE.

**APPLICATION FOR 2016 CALENDAR YEAR • RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Voting members must be property owners on Sand Lake, Portage Lake, or Little Sand Lake in Itasca County. Sand Lake Property Owners Association is a tax exempt, non profit association whose purpose is to repre-



sent the members' common interest in the Sand Lake area and its environment. Our association is managed 100% by Lake Owner volunteers. There are no salaries. We operate completely on Dues and Donations.

**YES...SEND MY SAND PAPERS VIA EMAIL.** Check the box to receive future newsletters by Email.

**HELP!**

When you send us this form, please volunteer for activities that maintain the health and beauty of our wonderful Sand Lake area.

Yes. Contact me... I'd like to help with:

- Weed Cops, Invasive species monitoring at the public landings
- Adopt a Highway... Trash pickup on Rt... 35 & Rt. 4 twice a year.

MAIL TO: Sand Lake Property Owners Association PO Box 690, Deer River MN 56636  
Your check is your receipt • Signed receipt sent on request.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ MAIN Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(Alternate/Lake) Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2017 DUES...  \$15.00  DONATIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  STOCKING DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_